

## By Telegraph.

## CONGRESSIONAL.

## SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 15.—In the course of debate on the pension appropriation bill,

Davis said the whole number of pensioners now on the roll was 234,821. The amount paid for pensions in 1875 was \$26,289,519, and the amount appropriated \$29,500,000, more than \$3,000,000 in excess of the sum paid. This three million dollars was expended in some way, but did not go to the pensioners. It did not go to pay the expenses of the pension office here, as that was provided for in the legislative appropriation bill. He (Davis) called at the pension office and had an interview with the commissioner, though not entirely satisfactory to himself. Six or seven hundred thousand dollars of the three millions was applied to the payment of fifty-eight pension agents throughout the country. Still there remained more than two millions not accounted for; it had been paid. Much of this money went to pay the increase of pensions authorized during the year. He thought the decrease resulting from death, remarriage and minors coming of age, should counterbalance the increase, and prove that the pension roll for the past year showed a decrease of between 1,000 and 2,000 persons.

Morrill sent to the clerk's desk and had read a letter from the commissioner of pensions, explaining how the three million dollars spoken of by the senator from West Virginia had been expended. The commissioner states at length the amounts paid to pension agents, fees for vouchers, postage, printing, increase and arrears of pensions, &c., amounting in the aggregate to \$3,393,597. Now to have the \$29,000,000 appropriated to pensioners paid in 1867, when the pension roll called for \$25,000,000 only, about \$250,000 was required to have the amount disbursed. Then there were but 175 persons employed in the pension bureau, now 355 persons were employed there. He thought these matters worthy of the attention of Congress, as retrenchment could properly be made.

Ingalls said, early in the session he introduced a bill to appoint forty agents to investigate frauds upon the pension bureau. He believed, with Senator Davis, that extensive frauds were perpetrated, and of twenty millions appropriated, at least five million dollars were fraudulently or improperly paid, in consequence of deaths, remarriage of widows, and minors becoming of age.

WASHINGTON, 16.—Conkling, from the judiciary committee, reported with amendment the Senate bill conferring exclusive jurisdiction over Indian reservations upon the United States courts, and for the punishment of crimes committed by and against Indians; placed on calendar.

Keller called up the Senate bill for the sale of timber lands in the States of California and Oregon, and the Territories of the United States.

Kelly said the bill was a copy of one passed by the House last session and lost in the Senate for want of time. It had been fully considered by the committee on public lands, and reported favorably by that committee. It only carried into effect the recommendations of the land-office on the subject.

McMillan submitted an amendment to the second section, so as to provide that any person desiring to avail himself of the provisions of the act shall in addition to other requirements mentioned in the bill declare that he had not executed any mortgage or other instrument upon lands, or any part thereof, by or under which the title may be vested in any other person.

## HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 15.—Scales, from committee on Indian affairs, reported a bill requiring sureties for all Indian agents, sub-agents and special agents, to file sworn statements, of the value and description of property owned by them, on which they become securities. Passed.

Wheeler, from committee on appropriations, reported the fortification bill and asked for its consideration at this time. The bill appropriates for the protection, preservation and repairs of fortifications, \$100,000; for armament of for-

tifications, \$165,000; for torpedoes for harbor defense, &c., \$50,000. Total, \$315,000. Passed.

WASHINGTON, 16.—Stone introduced a bill fixing the rates of compensation of railroad companies for the transportation of U. S. mails.

WASHINGTON, 16.—Crouse offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of the Interior to furnish the House a copy of the report of the Government Directors of the U. P. R. R. for the year 1875. Referred.

Southard, from the committee on territories, reported a bill to amend the act of 3rd March, 1865, for the admission of Colorado as a State. Referred to committee of the whole.

The House went into committee of the whole, Blackburn in the chair, on the Colorado bill. The only changes made by this bill in the enabling act of last March are a provision that all qualified voters under the laws of the territory shall be entitled to vote on ratification or rejection, and a provision appropriating \$20,000 to pay the expenses of the constitutional convention. After a long discussion the committee rose and the bill passed without yeas and nays.

The House then took up, as a special order, the bill to reorganize the judiciary. The report of the judiciary committee, made by McCree, contains the following statement—

"Your committee do not hesitate to say that any legislation which proposes to relieve the Supreme Court, by improving or destroying the right of appeal, as it existed prior to the act of the last Congress, will be unsatisfactory. It is, therefore, in the opinion of your committee very important that if any part of the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is taken from it, the same should be lodged in an intermediate court of appeals, to sit in the several circuits, and to be composed of the Supreme Court Justices, assigned to the circuit, the circuit judge, and the several district judges, and this is the plan proposed by the bill under consideration."

The report sums up by giving the following reasons for the bill—

"First. It will establish a court of appeals of very high standing and authority within convenient distance from the residence of parties litigant, which will be able to hear and determine finally, with reasonable promptness, all cases involving not more than \$10,000 and not involving any question of such general importance as to require the adjudication of the supreme court. These two considerations, being a court of appeals within a convenient distance from the residence of parties litigant, and securing prompt final decision, are both very important. The importance of the former will be appreciated when we consider that an appeal to the supreme court from the decision of circuit or district court, under the law as it now stands, involves in many cases trial at a distance of from 1,200 to 3,000 miles from the place of trial below, and the importance of the second will be appreciated when we remember that such an appeal also, as the law now is, involves a delay, unless the parties are willing to forego the valuable and important privilege of oral argument, of from three to five years.

"Second. It will relieve the Supreme Court from the necessity of hearing a large class of cases, reduce its docket to such an extent as to enable it to hear appeals and writs of error with promptness, will confine its labors to those great and important questions which ought to occupy its attention, and will give it ample time and proper opportunity to consider those questions with that deliberation and care which their importance demands.

"Third. It will facilitate the administration of justice in the lower courts, and will relieve the dockets of circuit courts, now greatly overcrowded in many of the states, by relieving those courts from the trial of appeals, and by enabling parties to bring and defend suits therein at places more convenient to their homes.

"Fourth. These advantages are all to be secured by the passage of the bill under consideration, without the creating of a single additional judgeship.

"Fifth. The measure is one of economy. As the law now stands separate juries are required for circuit and district courts. By holding these courts simultaneously in all States, and providing, as the bill does, that the panel of jurors

selected and summoned for the district court shall also be the panel for the circuit court, a very large sum will be saved to the United States and heavy cost to the people, as well as to the local governments. Appeals to the Supreme Court will also in many cases be saved. The cost of holding courts of appeal will be much less than the saving in other directions."

Knott, chairman of the judiciary committee, enlarged upon the reasons set forth in the report in favor of the passage of the bill.

Hooker moved to reduce the limit of value from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Various other amendments, chiefly of a local nature, were offered, but none were acted on.

The Speaker obtained for himself leave of absence till Monday next, in order, he said, that he might pay a little more attention to his health.

## AMERICAN.

BELVIDERE, N. J., 15.—Patrick Ward, for the murder of Peter Miers, in Phillipsburg, in May last, has been sentenced to be hung on the 24th of March.

John Ritter, who murdered his two children in Hackettstown, in Oct. last, pleaded guilty of murder in the 2nd degree, and was sentenced to the states prison, at hard labor, for twenty years on each of the two indictments.

ST. LOUIS, 15.—Upon the opening of the Babcock trial the counsel for the Government notified the Court that farther testimony would reach here from Washington tomorrow respecting the dispatch of Joyce to Babcock, Dec. 3d, and the one from Babcock to Joyce, Dec. 5th, 1874, which have not yet been admitted. The Court also gave notice to counsel that they would not pass on the admissibility of the Avery telegrams until the defence had an opportunity to present evidence that Avery's name was known to the grand jury, and was not included in the indictment naming the conspirators. One objection to the Avery telegrams is, in which it was shown that Avery was in the conspiracy, was overruled, as the telegrams themselves tended to show that.

Alfred Bevis, the distiller, was put on the stand, and testified that Joyce showed him the "Sylph" dispatch from Babcock, in December, 1874, and that his understanding from it was, that the revenue agents were not coming, and on the strength of it, preparations were made to run the crooked. When Joyce showed witness this dispatch, he told him everything was all right, and to go ahead.

DENVER, Col., 15.—The constitutional convention, after two days of earnest discussion, adopted a chapter on the elective franchise, which requires the first State legislature to provide by enactment for the submission of the woman's suffrage question to a vote of the people. This is regarded as favorable by the advocates of the measure, who claim a powerful constituency in Colorado, whilst the experiment in Wyoming on the north has justified the privilege.

In Kansas woman suffrage exists as to all school offices.

WASHINGTON, 15.—The Secretary of War has submitted a request for an appropriation of \$500,000 to meet the deficiency in the appropriation for the pay of troops from June 15th to 30th, 1875. He expresses the hope that this will be done before a regular deficiency bill be passed.

About 2,200 original measures have been introduced in the House the present session.

The bill reported from the committee on military affairs to-day for the transfer of the jurisdiction and control of the Indian bureau from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of War, provides that the act shall take effect on the 1st of July next. The Secretary of War is required to detail an officer, not below the rank of colonel, to take charge of the office under such regulations as he may prescribe. Army officers are to act as superintendents, agents, sub-agents, etc., thus abolishing all the present civil machinery of the bureau. Provision is made for a continuance of Indians through army officers, and the Secretary of War is required to cause an enumeration of all Indians to be taken. The report of the committee was unanimous.

NEW YORK, 16.—Charles J. Williamson, believed to be the principal in the issue of forged bonds of the New York Central, Buffalo and Erie Railway, and the Western

Union Telegraph Companies, has been arrested here.

The ship *W. J. Hatfield*, from Philadelphia for Bremerhaven, was discovered at sea, dismasted and water-logged, by the bark *Floka*, which sent off a boat, but it could not get alongside. Three men jumped overboard, one of whom was drowned, the other two were picked up. The remainder of the crew could make no effort to save themselves, being exhausted for want of food and water. The *Floka* hove to from six in the evening until the following morning, but during the night the vessel went down with all on board.

CHICAGO, 16.—The *Times*' Washington special says that to-day the committee on the Pacific railway will take action on Scott's scheme, and from a careful canvass of the committee there is no doubt that the committee will report favorably on the bill, the rumors to the effect that the committee will tie on the question being so far from true that there will be a majority of three at least of the thirteen members in favor of the scheme.

The committee on appropriations, yesterday, had under consideration the bill referring to the territorial governors. It was decided to cut their salaries down to war figures, that is, to what they were before the increase four years ago; this will make the pay of governors \$2,500 instead of \$3,000, judges \$2,500 instead of \$3,000, and secretaries \$2,000 instead of \$2,500.

The Western Union Telegraph Company, following the lead of the Atlantic and Pacific Company, has reduced its rates from 20 to 30 per cent.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., 16.—A freshet in the Mohawk Valley last night covered the Central railway tracks with three feet of water, and in some places with ice piled twenty feet high; it carried away a portion of the bridge at Amsterdam, flooded the lower portion of that place, sweeping away several houses from the foundations, and drowning one child. The lower portion of this city is flooded. The water rose fifteen feet.

BOSTON, 16.—The remains of Bishop Fitzpatrick, who died ten years ago, were transferred to-day from the cemetery of St. Augustine's church to a crypt in the new cathedral. Archbishop Williams celebrated the requiem mass. There was a very large attendance of clergy and laity.

WASHINGTON, 16.—Luttrell, in the House, and Booth, in the Senate, presented a joint resolution of the Legislature of California, asking for the passage of a law authorizing the transfer of the management of the affairs of the Interior Department to the War Department; referred to the committee on Indian affairs.

The President signed the Centennial bill with a quill pen made from the wing of the American eagle.

ALBANY, 16.—Both houses of the Legislature have adopted resolutions protesting against Congress granting subsidies to railroads, &c.

BOSTON, Mass., 16.—Wool steady. Demand from manufacturers without change from last report in either prices or tone of market. Holders of all desirable grades are firm, but there is no pressing demand; X and X X Penna. and Ohio fleeces 45 @ 47; medium and No. 1 do, 47 @ 50; combing and delaine fleeces 50 @ 56 for washed, 40 @ 49 for unwashed. Wisconsin and Michigan fleeces 42 @ 44 for X, 44 @ 47 for medium and No. 1. California wool continues in demand and has been selling at 15 @ 25 for fall, and 20 @ 36 for spring.

NEW YORK, 16.—The advisory council reassembled at 2. A great number of spectators were present.

Shearman resumed, giving details of the matter of the opposition offered by the Plymouth committee to a mutual council, in which certain delegates should sit as members. Plymouth Church was not ruled by one man, nor by ten. Those who were supposed to rule were most frequently overruled. He denied that Plymouth Church had gone beyond its right as a church of Christ so as to justly forfeit its claim to the confidence and fellowship of the congregational churches. At the close of his address the council adjourned till 7-30.

SAN FRANCISCO, 16.—Concerning the big race, it is reported, on good authority, that Grinstead is practically out of the race for want of training, and Rutherford is still in the shoulders and fore legs, from too severe training. Other horses and the track are in good condition.

The weather is promising. Pool-selling begins to-morrow evening.

CHICAGO, 17.—The following is President Grant's deposition in the Babcock case, at St. Louis. Direct examination by Mr. Cook.

Q. "How long have you known General Babcock, and how intimately?"

A. "I have known him since 1863, since March 1864 have known him intimately."

Q. "State in what various capacities he has been employed, and what positions he has held since 1863."

A. "From about March 1864 to March 1869 he was aid-de-camp on my military staff; since that time he has been acting as my private secretary, and in addition to that, for several years, he has been superintendent of public buildings and grounds."

Q. "As your private secretary, please state what were his general duties?"

A. "His duties were to carry all communications from the President to Congress, to have charge and supervision over all correspondence, particularly of official correspondence, and in his capacity of private secretary he received my mails, opened my letters, and read them. In regard to many of them he gave directions to the department, with reference to me, and such as required any dictation or answer from me he submitted to me."

Q. "His relations with you were confidential?"

A. "Very."

Q. "Do you know whether, during the period of time that General Babcock has been your private secretary he has been frequently applied to by persons throughout the country to lay their special matters before you, or before the various departments?"

A. "That was a frequent and you might say almost a daily occurrence."

Q. "In what manner, so far as you have observed with reference to the public interests, has General Babcock discharged his duties as your secretary?"

A. "I have always regarded him as most efficient and most faithful."

Q. "Are you acquainted with the general reputation of General Babcock in the city where he now lives and in places where he has lived among his associates and acquaintances, in the army and elsewhere, for honesty and integrity?"

A. "I suppose that I might say I have been acquainted with his general reputation in the army and where he is known; where he has lived elsewhere I do not know anything about it, but I suppose myself to be acquainted with the reputation he has in the army and in this city."

Q. "Now state, if you please, what his general reputation is and has been?"

A. "I have always supposed it to be good; I certainly had a good opportunity of knowing the reputation he sustains."

Q. "And from these opportunities, what has been his reputation?"

A. "Good."

Q. "Did General Babcock, ever in any way, directly or indirectly, urge or request, or seek to influence, the appointment of Mr. Maguire, or did he ever exchange a word with you on the subject which indicated that he desired his appointment?"

A. "I do not think he ever did. I do not think he was aware of the existence of Constantine Maguire before his recommendation."

Q. "Are the telegrams now shown you the ones received in relation to the appointment of Mr. Maguire?"

A. "I have no doubt that these are the dispatches that I received, or if not, telegrams similar in tenor to those were received."

Q. "There is a letter, Mr. President, connected with these telegrams, dated Jan. 4th, 1876, from D. D. Pratt, commissioner; will you be kind enough to explain how that letter was received by you, and what connection it had with the telegrams?"

A. "The note from the commissioner of internal revenue is in answer to a request from me to be furnished with the telegrams recommending Mr. Maguire to the office of collector."

Q. "Did General Babcock, so far as you know, ever seek in any way to influence your action in reference to any charges made, or proposed to be made, against Joyce, or McDonald, or either of them?"

A. "I do not remember of his ever speaking to me on the subject at all;